Advantages of Meem Tree

J 573 SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Wiil tlie Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

U) whether it is a fact that recent research has rediscovered the miraculous power of Neem tree in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that tbe Neem has the potential of checking the march of desert in the country, medi cines and birth con', ol pills foi the mankind and has been proved as a good pesticide as D.D.T.;

(c) if so, whether Government has utilised the neem tree in these fields; if SO, with what results; and

id; whether Government also propose to plant more neem trees and protect them?

THE MINISTER OP SI VIE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR); (a) Yes, Sir, Recent research results have confirmed the insect'cidal and pharmacological properties of Neem.

(b) Yes, Sir. Neem tree is a versatile tree which can easily adapt to arid and semi-arid conditions. It can be recom mended for poor and degraded lands.

(c) Its pesticidal properties arc well known and varioua commercial formula tions are now available in the countiy for control of different crop pests. In some instances these are as effective as synthetic chemcial pesticides. In addition, neem oil has also been found etfective for mosquite control.

The antifertility potential of a neem extract is currently being investigated by the scientistst

To encourage use of neem based com-pounds in pest management programmes the Government has taken the following steps:

(i) Simplification of registration pro-cedures.

(ii) Granting of provisional legis-iration for several commercial formulations.

(iiij Commercialization of neem based pesticides during the period of provisional registration.

(iv) Use of neem based pesticides in tlie Integrated Pest Management Programme both at National and Stat* level.

Id) Tlie planting of neem trees is bein*. encouraged as part of agro-forestry, social forestry and other forestry progiamnaes.

Godown for Imported Sugar

1574. SHRl KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased" to state:

(a) the quantam of sugar in stock* of Food Corporation. of ^ndia when ttw decision to import sugar was recently token;

(b) whether it is a fact that the godowns of FCI did not have the capacity to store the imported sugar; and

(c) if so, what arrangements have been made for Ihe storage of sugar in the ports as well as in other godowns of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRl KALP NATH RAI): (a) FCI is arranging lifting, movement and distribution of indigenous levy sugar in respect of 12 States and 3 Union Territories which are mostly deficit in sugar. As sucb, FCI has reported a pipe-line stock of about 1.33 lakh tonnes ia FCT godowns as on 33*3*190*

t'b) and (c) FCI is having adequate storage capacity to store imported sugar since the sugar so received would also be released for distribution to the State Governments/Union Territories through PDS.